



OFFICERS CALL



MOAA Excellent Chapter Award:

2001 / 2004 / 2005 / 2006 / 2007 / 2008 / 2009 / 2010 / 2011 / 2012 / 2013 / 2014 /
2015 / 2016 / 2017 / 2018 / 2019 / 2020

MOAA Newsletter Award: 2001/2003/2009/2013

MOAA Recruiting Award: 2001/2002

Volume 21 Issue 6

OCT-NOV 2021

NORTH DFW MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 294685, Lewisville, TX 75029-4685

MOAA and the North DFW Chapter are nonpartisan organizations



Meeting Location Saltgrass Steak House in Lewisville, 801 ST. HWY 121 Lewisville, TX. 75067, on 10 November 2021. Please see the reservations page 14.

1800 Camaraderie/Social(CASH BAR) 1900 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

1905 Dinner Served

2000: Therapeutic Recreation Group Speaker and Election of 2022 Board Members.

MENU: There are 6 ENTREES to choose from, plus 1 side dish and Salad or Soup. Water, Iced Tea, and Soda are included. A detailed menu is on page 15.

Be ready to place your dinner order when you arrive at the meeting.

What's Inside this *Officers Call* —

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PRESIDENT
COL Si Simonson
USA Retired



CHAPTER PRESIDENT REMARKS

Greetings.

Sadly, we lost one of our long-time members this month. Richard “Dick” Cook passed away earlier this month. He was an integral member of our Chapter, having served in several chapter board positions, as well as the newsletter editor for several years. As you may recall, he always had a camera in his hand, taking pictures of us all at our dinner meetings, and capturing many other memories that we will cherish for years. A thank you to the numerous chapter members that attended the ceremony celebrating Dick Cook’s life. Our prayers are with Georgette and the rest of the family.

Georgette had informed us that, in lieu of flowers, Dick wished that donations be made to our Chapter Scholarship Fund. Our grand prize scholarship award for 2021 will be designated as the Richard Cook Memorial Scholarship.

It is with great enthusiasm that I inform you that our November and December Dinner Meetings will be held in person. Just like me, you are probably looking forward to an in-person social gathering. We have two good venues and programs lined up for November and December.

November is typically our business meeting month. We will elect officers for the new year at this meeting. If you are interested in being one of the following board members, please let me know: President, VP for Programs, VP for Membership, VP for Legislative Affairs, Treasurer, or Secretary. We will present the final slate of officers at the November Dinner Meeting. Also, we have some bylaw changes to consider. These will be presented at the dinner meeting for a vote by the membership.

In December, we will have our annual Christmas Gala. More information will follow in November.

This chapter is able to provide the many functions, newsletters, and other activities by members volunteering to do them. If you have just a little time to help, consider running for one of the elected officer positions, or one of the appointed positions (scholarship chair, newsletter editor, webpage manager, survival assistance officer). If we all pitch in, then it is not such a burden on those who are currently doing several of those functions.



1st Vice President Programs and Support

LtCol Bob Little USAF (RET)

Our Nov. 10 meeting will be in-person at **Saltgrass Steak House in Lewisville**. The menu choices are listed in this newsletter, but you'll place your dinner order on-site there when you arrive. This is different than we normally do and this means your meal will be *cooked-to-order*.

All we need is your reservation.

Our speaker will be from the **Therapeutic Recreation Group** and you can read more about them elsewhere in this newsletter. In addition, **nominations and elections for our 2022 Board** will take place.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, Dec. 8, for our Holiday Dinner at Bistecca in Highland Village.

Send in your reservation for Nov. 10 and join us for an evening of camaraderie and a great meal.

Vaccinated and Staying Safe—

Bob Little

Nov 10th, 2021

**Dinner Meeting with Rob
Horn from TRG.
This is Veterans Day Week**



Dec 8, 2021

**Formal Dinner
Bistecca Steak House**



2nd VP-MEMBERSHIP
Maj Gary Howe

VA Survivors Pension

A VA Survivors Pension offers monthly payments to qualified surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime Veterans who meet certain income and net worth limits set by Congress. Find out if you qualify and how to apply.

Am I eligible for a VA Survivors Pension as a surviving spouse?

You may be eligible for this benefit if you haven't remarried after the Veteran's death, and if the deceased Veteran didn't receive a dishonorable discharge and their service meets at least one of the requirements listed below.

At least one of these must be true. The Veteran:

- Entered active duty on or before September 7, 1980, and served at least 90 days on active military service, with at least 1 day during a covered wartime period, or
- Entered active duty after September 7, 1980, and served at least 24 months or the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least 1 day during a covered wartime period or
- Was an officer and started on active duty after October 16, 1981, and hadn't previously served on active duty for at least 24 months

And this must be true for you:

- Your yearly family income and net worth meet certain limits set by Congress. Your net worth equals the value of everything you own (except your house, your car, and most home furnishings), minus any debt you owe.
- Am I eligible for a VA Survivors Pension as the child of a deceased wartime Veteran? You may be eligible for this benefit if you're unmarried and you meet at least one of the requirements listed below.

At least one of these must be true:

- You're under age 18, or
- You're under age 23 and attending a VA-approved school, or
- You're unable to care for yourself due to a disability that happened before age 18



2nd VP-MEMBERSHIP
Maj Gary Howe

Retiree Pay-Raise

Starting in 2022, military retirees and disabled vets are due to get the largest increase in their monthly checks since 1983. Many will see their monthly checks jump by hundreds of dollars. The COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) will soon be determined by the government, and all the data is pointing to an increase of at least 6% compared to 2021.

TRICARE Sets Dates for 2021 Open Season

TRICARE's 2021 Open Season will run Nov. 8 through Dec. 13, giving eligible beneficiaries a little more than a month this fall to make changes to their coverage.

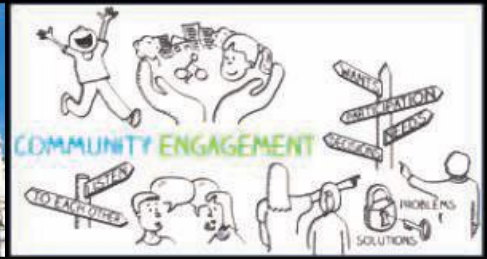
Anyone enrolled in, or eligible for, a TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select plan can enroll in a plan or make changes to their coverage during this period. Updates would take effect Jan. 1, 2022.

Reenrollment is not required; if you like the plan you're in, you'll continue with it as long as you remain eligible.

Coverage changes outside Open Season require a Qualifying Life Event (QLE). You'll have 90 days after a QLE to make changes; a QLE for any family member allows all family members to change health plans. Get a list of these events and details on how to initiate enrollment changes after a QLE at [TRICARE.mil/life events](https://TRICARE.mil/life-events).



**3rd VICE PRESIDENT — LEGISLATIVE
& Community Activities
LTC Ginger Simonson. USA (Ret)**



“We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.” – Thomas Jefferson

It’s time to **exercise our right and duty to vote**. Although there are no State or Congressional seats up for grabs, there are eight constitutional amendments to consider. Here’s a copy of the actual ballot for the November 2021 election -

<http://assets01.aws.connect.clarityelections.com/Assets/Connect/RootPublish/denton-tx.connect.clarityelections.com/SampleBallots/2021/1121/4027-001.pdf>

Although this is a Denton County ballot, every county ballot will feature these same eight proposals. The Texas League of Women Voters provides an explanation for each, as well as their individual pros and cons -

https://www.lwvtexas.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=979482&module_id=490719

Proposition 8 directly affects some military families. It is - “The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services of the United States who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.” Current Texas law limits this exemption to the families who lose active-duty service-members in combat.

Election First Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Monday, October 18, 2021 (17th day before election day falls on a Saturday, first day moves to next business day)
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)	Friday, October 22, 2021
Last Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Friday, October 29, 2021
Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail	Tuesday, November 2, 2021 (election day) at 7:00 p.m. OR Wednesday, November 3, 2021 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is post-marked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election, on Election Day (unless overseas or military deadlines apply)

The Texas Legislature is wrapping up its third special election, spending most of its time re-working voting districts. Although there are a number of proposed changes in the North Texas area, I see only one proposal in west Texas that affects a military installation. Ft. Bliss, currently in District 16 and includes El Paso, would join District 23, which includes San Antonio. It's unclear if that would improve or degrade federal funding opportunities for Fort Bliss, which would be just another military installation already in the San Antonio area, rather than "the only game in town." Presumably, the special session will end on 20 October. However, Governor Abbott can call another special session if he feels there are still legislative priorities that he wants addressed. Governor William Clements holds "the record" for most special sessions in a given year, six, that lasted from July 19, 1989 until June 1990.





What's Up in Congress

On September 30th, Congress passed a continuing resolution to keep government operations from shutting down...at least until December 3rd. That gives them nine more weeks to pass a fiscal 2022 budget plan for the military and the rest of the federal government. In the meantime, House and Senate leaders will begin discussing the differences between the two versions of the NDAA and hopefully reach a conference agreement that will pass both chambers.

Here are a few highlights, in case you're wondering what's in the NDAA:

- The \$740+ billion 2022 National Defense Authorization Act includes provisions to overhaul the military justice system's handling of sexual assault cases. The bill would remove superiors from the direct chain of command from making decisions in sexual assault cases.
- The bill authorizes a 2.7 percent pay increase for service members.
- Section 720 of the NDAA establishes procedures for which service members can be exempted from taking the COVID-19 vaccine for religious, medical, and administrative reasons, including a test showing antibodies from a previous COVID-19 infection. Section 716 requires the Pentagon to honorably discharge any service member who refuses the vaccine (but doesn't qualify for an exemption).
- The bill also creates a new "Office of Countering Extremism" that could be used to discipline and expel troops who engage in "extremist activities" or belong to an "extremist organization."

It would require women to register for the Selective Service, also known as the draft, for the first time in our nation's history.

For more information on what's included in the proposed NDAA, check these links:

Senate Version: <https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/FY22%20NDAA%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>

House Version: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4350/all-info>

TAKE ACTION

There are no *new* action items on the National MOAA Advocacy page, but if you haven't yet had a chance to send messages to your elected representatives on the top items discussed in previous newsletters, please do so this month - <https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/?5>



2021 Highland Village SALUTE OUR VETERANS Luncheon

Wednesday, November 10 at the Hilton Garden Inn

RSVP with your name and branch of service to
cityhall@highlandvillage.org or call 972-899-5105



Surviving Spouse Liaison
Debby Allbach

Surviving Spouses **virtual chapter** is a no cost MOAA chapter the purposes of which are:

- *Provide information and exchange ideas
- *Find solutions to problems or issues affecting surviving spouses
- *Be a resource for surviving spouses
- *Reach out to younger surviving spouses and to those living where MOAA chapters are not available
- *Be an enhancement to regular chapters—the virtual chapter does not take the place of a regular MOAA chapter.

The Chapter meets every month on the 3rd Tuesday, alternating between the traditional business meeting at 1200 noon central time on “odd” months (i.e., November, January etc) and a social gathering/open forum at 4 pm central time on “even months (i.e. December, February etc).

The September meeting was very informative with 2 interesting presentations. The first: Judith Thomas, a member of the Virtual Chapter, represents the Vietnam War Commemoration Commission through the Society of Military Widows. She presented information on The United States Vietnam War Commemoration Commission, authorized by Congress in 2008 to recognize Veterans who honorably served on active duty in the United States military between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, no matter where that service occurred. The service is recognized by a pin and a certificate. Surviving Spouses of eligible veterans can also apply to receive a pin and certificate. To date, Judith has mailed out over 3000 pins. The recognition can be requested through Judith at her email, jktmilitarywidow@gmail.com by providing the mailing address of the requesting individual, the name of the service member, the branch of the military and the dates of service. A form is also available at the following website:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScXrJXuzmNIMcVEFsAB04nC2daEFN83JSy-OW7er8nVP1ttVQ/viewform>



The form is simple and there is no requirement to submit a copy of the DD-214. The recognition comes in two separate packages, a box for the pin and a flat envelope for the certificate. To date, about four million veterans have been recognized, approximately 10 per cent of which are through surviving spouses. The program will continue until 11 November 2025. See also Vietnam <https://www.vietnamwar50th.com>.



Surviving Spouse Liaison

Debby Allbach



Pati Redmond, another member of the Virtual Chapter, provided a review of her book “Words from the Heart, when America’s Veterans Speak”. The book is the result of Pati’s involvement with the Veterans’ History Project, a program authorized in 2000 by Congress as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The intent is to capture individual veteran’s stories so that they are available to the public. Their voices will tell future generations “I was there, and this is what it was like”. The interviews span WWI through the present. The book is available through Amazon. Copies are available to veterans for \$20, which is \$5 less than through the internet. Contact Pati Redmond, 7503 Ridge Road Frederick, MD 21702 or patipt@comcast.net https://smile.amazon.com/Words-Heart-Americas-Veterans-Speak/dp/1977232884/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=from+the+heart+patricia+redmond&qid=1632140172&s=books&sr=1-1



Additionally, a member updated information about the Battle of Mogadishu in October 1993. All the soldiers of the Delta Force involved in that incident will have their awards updated. Twenty-eight years after the fact, they are still being remembered and The Mogadishu Mile is run in commemoration of Rangers who were left behind and had to run about a mile from the center of Mogadishu to the stadium. This year it will be run across the country. You can sign up to participate on the MOAA website; running is not required, participants can walk or just sit and have a cup of coffee with a friend. The important thing is to remember. “Never Forget”.

This virtual chapter is a great source of fellowship and information aimed specifically to welfare of military families. If interested in joining please contact Micki Costello:

mssvc02@gmail.com



Treasurer
Maj Dave Nelson, USAF Retired



Treasurer's Report

Greetings from the finance department.

I am happy to report dues payments for 2021 are coming in with 83 members on the roster and 56 members current so far. Please consider bringing your membership up to date if you haven't already. We will be sending out gentle reminders to those we show as not being paid up for this year in case you can't remember. If you would like to include next year's dues, just add \$20 for 2022 to the \$25 2021 dues. We will draw names for a free 2023 membership during our February dinner meeting from all those who paid their 2022 dues early. If you have already paid your 2021 dues and would like to get ahead and pay 2022, just send a check for \$20 and you will be included in the drawing. We will be having a scholarship drawing at our November dinner meeting. After awarding our three scholarships this year our scholarship fund balance stands at \$3200 so we have a good head start on our 2022 scholarship award fund. Other than sending scholarship checks to 3 colleges, there were no other expenditures since 01Sep21.

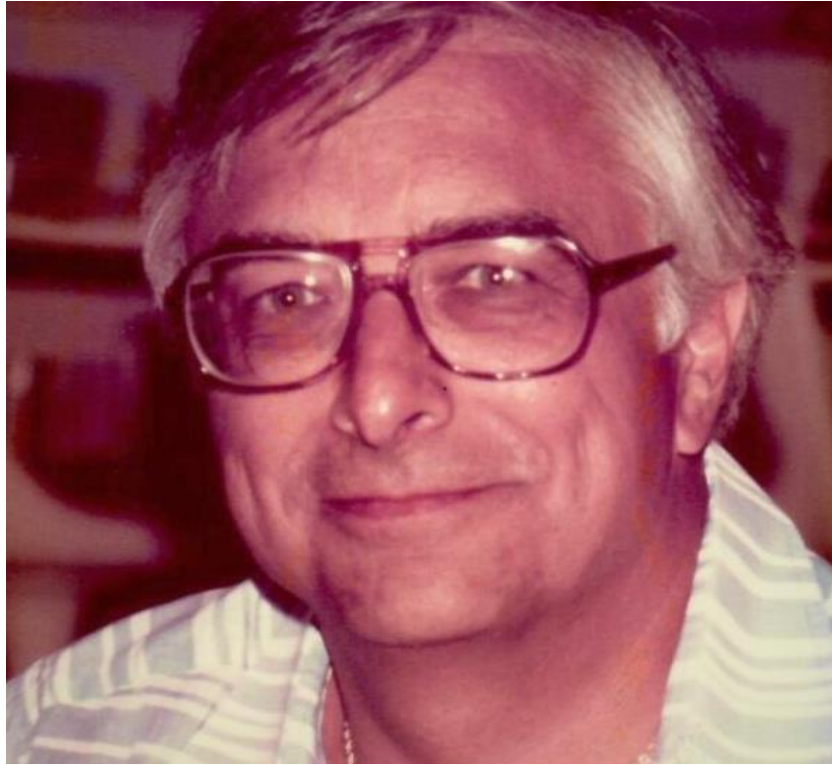
I am looking forward to seeing you at the Salt Grass Steak House for our November meeting. If you can attend, please make your menu selections and return your payments and selections as soon as possible so we can get the dinner selections coordinated with the restaurant. The dinner is November 10th which will come quickly. Thanks again for being a part of this great organization.

As ever,

Dave



TRIBUTE TO DICK COOK



Richard “Dick:” Cook lived an active, involved, engaged life that drew to an end on October 2, 2021, on his 91st birthday. A celebration of Life was held this 15th of October, and was attended by several members of our MOAA chapter, as well as local dignitaries, politicians, friends, neighbors, and, of course, Georgette and family members. Several speakers told stories of his graciousness and dedication to his town of Double Oak and its proper functioning. He served Double Oak as a council member, mayor, and finally mayor emeritus for many years.

The one common theme from the speakers was Dick’s care and compassion for both family and most anyone he happened to meet. His fervent passion of serving his community and fellow man didn’t go unnoticed, and won him respect and friendship from all.

He served our chapter on several levels, but his final position was the editor/publisher of our chapter publication “Officers Call”. His picture taking at the MOAA meetings and subsequent publication in the OC will provide those attending members some fond memories of friendships and shared camaraderie.





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NOTICE

PERMANENT NAME BADGES ARE AVAILABLE




NORTH DFW
 MILITARY OFFICERS
 ASSOCIATION
**BILL
 JONES**





**MARY
 JONES**



FIRST NAME _____

LAST NAME _____

VERSION (CIRCLE ONE) MEMBER SPOUSE/GUEST
ATTACHMENT (CIRCLE ONE) CLUTCH (\$10) PIN (\$10) MAGNETIC (\$13)

FIRST NAME _____

T NAME _____

VERSION (CIRCLE ONE) MEMBER SPOUSE/GUEST
 ATTACHMENT (CIRCLE ONE) CLUTCH (\$10) PIN (\$10) MAGNETIC (\$13)

RESERVATION FORM -- By Friday Nov 5, 2021

MAIL TO: North DFW Military Officers Association,
P.O. Box 294685 Lewisville, TX 75029-4685

FOR EMERGENCIES & LAST MINUTE :

E-MAIL TO: davenelson@tx.rr.com

CALL: Dave Nelson, Maj, USAF (Ret), 972-740-8449

Wednesday 10 Nov 2021

Saltgrass Steak House

801 State Hwy 121 Lewisville, TX 75067

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

Plated Dinner Service **CASH BAR**

Price \$35/pp (inclusive) ———

Entrées:

Page 14 for Entrees and side dishes. Cost is \$35/pp

Iced Tea, Water, Soda, and Coffee(on request)

RESERVATION With Payment By Friday 5 Nov 2021.

CANCELLATION With Refund by 1700 hours Sunday 7 Nov 2021.

Reservations may be made by Email, however, if you make a reservation and fail to cancel by Sunday 7th November prior to the meeting, you will be charged the full amount.

SUPPORT the CHAPTER SERVICE PROJECTS

SUPPORT the USO DFW — Bring items such as single-serve snacks, books and travel-sized toiletries, OR DONATE \$ _____ AND WE'LL BUY AND DONATE FOR YOU.

RESERVATIONS: _____ COST \$ _____ CHECK ENCLOSED \$ _____

SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE” FORM

***IF YOU CAN'T BE WITH US ON 10th November
but WANT TO SUPPORT our SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM,
DONATE TO THE RAFFLE for a CHANCE TO WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES !!!***

MAIL TO: North DFW Military Officers Association, P.O. Box 294685 Lewisville, TX 75029-4685

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAFFLE DONATION: \$ _____ (\$1 PER TICKET/ 11 FOR \$10/ 23 FOR \$20)

BEST DEAL 👉

Pick your Entrée, 1 side dish, and a Salad or Soup from your choices below. Water, Iced Tea, and Soda included. Please mail in your Reservation (page 14) and **Be ready to place your dinner order when you arrive at the meeting. However, you must still fill out and return the reservation form by November 5 so that we can get an accurate count of attendees.**

ENTREES

TEXAS T-BONE

- 17oz, best of both worlds
- Featuring a strip & filet

Surf & Turf

- 10 oz ribeye
- Choice of shrimp

Grilled Salmon

- Fresh-cut, grilled North Atlantic Salmon filet

Center Cut Filet

- 6oz Signature Center Cut Filet, our most tender steak

Ribeye

- 16oz, our most flavorful steak

Grilled chicken & shrimp

Marinated, grilled chicken breast **with** choice of shrimp

Side Dishes

- Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- French Fries
- Sweet Potato Fries
- Seasonal Vegetables
- Herb Rice
- Green Beans

Group menu selections include your choice of side item, choice of a dinner Salad, Caesar Salad or cup of Tortilla Soup or Potato Soup, and homemade beer bread.



North DFW Military Officers Association
Elected Officers and
Committee/Project Leaders



ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT — COL Si Simonson USAR (Ret), 817-683-2874, si.simonson@verizon.net

1st VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS & SUPPORT — LtCol Bob Little USAFR (Ret), 972-355-8355,
heedlock@gmail.com

2nd VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP — MAJ Gary Howe, USAF (Ret), 210-473-5961,
gphowe64@mac.com

3rd VICE PRESIDENT, LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES — LTC Ginger Simonson USA (Ret), 817-683-2870
vgws56@gmail.com

SECRETARY — LTC Doug Allbach, USA (Ret), 817-788-2652, dallbach@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER — MAJ Dave Nelson, USAF (Ret), 972-740-8449, davenelson@tx.rr.com

PAST PRESIDENT — CW2 Doug Brown USAR (Ret), 214-755-1153, douglasabrown@verizon.net

APPOINTED COMMITTEE/PROJECT LEADERS

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP — LTC Rich Crossley Jr., USA (Ret), & Gail Crossley, 972-355-7015,
Richard.Crossley@FWISD.org

USO DFW SUPPORT — MAJ Norma Cabanas, USAR, 214-916-8528, norma3j@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY MILITARY ADVISOR/COORDINATOR — CW2 Doug Brown, USAR (Ret), 214-755-1153,
douglasabrown@verizon.net

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIASION — Debby Allbach, 817-788-2652, dallbach@sbcglobal.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR/PUBLISHER — CW4 David Kerbow, USA (Ret), 214-435-4952
david.kerbow@gmail.com

PERSONAL AFFAIRS — LTC Ginger Simonson, USA (Ret), 817-683-2870 vgws56@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN — COL Paul Vicalvi, USA(Ret), 803-414-3718, pvicalvi@aol.com

HISTORIAN— CW2 Doug Brown, USAR (Ret), 214-755-1153, douglasbrown@verizon.net

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Website www.georgettecook.com
 Senior Residential Specialist

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 ABR, CRS, GRI, SRES
 REALTOR®



North DFW Military Officers Association

2021 Membership Application/Renewal

Mail application to:

North DFW Military Officers Association
P. O. Box 294685, Lewisville, Texas 75029-4685

Treasurer—davenelson@tx.rr.com



Bill To:
Name:
Address:
Phone:- _____ Cell or Home
E-Mail

Description	Amount
2021 North DFW MOAA Chapter Membership Dues North DFW MOAA Chapter Membership dues are separate from and in addition to National MOAA Dues. Pay 2021 Dues: \$25	
Chapter Coins: How Many ____ @\$10/ea	
Voluntary Scholarship Contribution Contributions go toward our annual scholarships awarded each May. Contributions to the scholarship fund are tax deductible. Please make a copy of this invoice and retain it as proof of payment for your records. Also, Dick Cook had requested that any members wishing to provide flowers at his Remembrance of Life to donate to the Scholarship fund instead.	
Check #	Total Amount Enclosed

Make Checks Payable to: North DFW MOAA

“An Association of Military Officers(& their surviving spouses) of the Eight Uniformed Services of the United States”
 Affiliated with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) 350,000 Members — “One Powerful Voice”
 MOAA is a nonpartisan information services association and advocate for active and retired families .